

Never Lost
Prequel to Victory- Week #2
Small Group Notes
March 18 and 21, 2021

Introduction:

Do you have a memory of watching a team make a comeback victory at the end?

In the sermon, Pastor Brady mentioned how when we consider that God has never lost and has never been defeated; what encouragement does that give you? How does that change the way that we look at our lives in situations that we feel are hopeless?

For today's discussion we are going to see a time that God called for radical obedience from Abraham. And we are going to see how God foreshadows the ultimate victory that Christ would bring through the cross and resurrection.

Discuss:

1. A supernatural birth

- Read Genesis 18:1-5; 14; 21:1-2
- The supernatural birth of Isaac is a shadow of the supernatural birth of Immanuel.
- Isaac's birth was supernatural, Jesus' birth was supernatural, and your birth can be supernatural.

Explain: God often reminds us of His power when we are powerless. Therefore, Isaac is not the only child whose birth was promised in Scripture. Throughout the Old Testament we read God's promises to the people of Israel that He would send the Messiah, the Anointed One, to save and lead His people. Centuries past, however, and the people grew weary of waiting for their Messiah to come. Then an angel appears to Mary, and God again revealed that He keeps His promises.

Ask:

Why does Sarah laugh to herself, and why do you think she then lied about it?

In what area of your life do you most often doubt God's power? Why is that aspect of your life most susceptible to a lack of faith?

When our prayers are not answered the way we want, what are our typical responses? Why?

2. A familiar location

- Read Genesis 22:2
- Isaac was at Moriah, Jesus was at Moriah, and you were at Moriah

Explain: From Beer-sheba to Moriah, a journey of two days, he had the painful secret of what God had called him to do. Yet in the midst of this travel, there was a specific and familiar place for them to go. God carefully directed each detail as the narrative unfolded. Yet we see years later how this place would be where Christ provided the sacrifice.

Ask: Is there a way that God is calling you to serve and obey Him today? Are you willing to go to that place or to remain in your comfort zone?

If obeying God means that we are in His will, what then does it mean if we do not follow His call on our lives?

3. A willing sacrifice.

- Read Genesis 22:9.
- Jesus stayed on the altar so that we could go free.

Explain: Abraham was a much older man, possibly 115 years old at this time. Isaac was much younger, possible 15-20 years old. Isaac could have overpowered him and even run away. Yet he was willing to trust his father. Once again we see the foreshadowing of Christ as both Isaac and Jesus carried their own means of sacrifice (Isaac- wood of the altar; Jesus the cross). Yet we also see that Isaac was released because Jesus stayed.

Ask:

Read John 10:17-18. Compare and contrast Isaac and Jesus' experience based on these verses.

What is the different in being forced to do something and being willing to do something voluntarily? What can we learn about the willingness of Isaac in this story?

In what ways can we struggle in being a willing follower of Jesus?

4. A worthy substitute

- Read Genesis 22:13
- We can escape situations, locations, and relations, but we cannot escape ourselves and that is why we need a substitute.
- Recognizing Christ as our Substitute causes worship, rest, and sacrifice.

Explain: Just before the knife was put to Isaac's neck, the Angel of the Lord spared him. The patriarch had passed the test, providing experiential evidence that he feared God more than he loved his only son. Exactly as Abraham had predicted (v. 8), God had miraculously provided a sheep—and the most prized variety, a ram. To memorialize the event Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide.

Ask:

What are movies that you can think of where someone took the place of another that ended in their death? (For example: Saving Private Ryan) Why are we drawn to these movies?

Why is the substitutionary atonement of Jesus a central part of our salvation?

How does the substitution of Christ show us the way that He thinks about us? (He died not because of our goodness but because of His love for us) How should that impact the way that we worship (Read Romans 12:1)?

5. A victorious ending

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-20; Genesis 22:4-5; 2 Corinthians 1:20

- Victory is a result of believing the promises of God in the midst of the most difficult challenges of life.

Explain: Abraham believed the promises of God that either the Lord would provide the sacrifice or do a miracle to resurrect Isaac. Why? Because the covenant God made with Him was for him to be the father of many generations that came through the promised son of Isaac. As we see from this discussion, the victory in trusting Jesus is the same faith that we exhibit as we believe that we have been giving the victory of eternal life in Jesus Christ!

Ask: What does it look like in my life to live in the victory of God that He provides?